

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

“Youth Emancipating From Foster Care in California: Findings Using Linked Administrative Data”

Outcomes for emancipated youth:

- Almost half of the youth that are under child welfare supervision have had at least five placements and have been in care for more than five years.
- Approximately half of the youth attended a two-year college. Most of the youth did not earn a degree, certificate, or transfer to a four-year college.
- Approximately 10% of Emancipated Child Welfare (ECW) youth and over 20% of Emancipated Probation (EPR) youth took the GED examination. About two-thirds of those youth that took the GED exam passed.
- Approximately two-thirds of the youth received mental health services.
- Of those young women who emancipated in 1997, 20% became pregnant while in foster care or shortly after emancipating from the state foster care system.
- Over two-thirds of the emancipating females had at least one birth within 5 years of leaving foster care. The birth rate among 18-year-old foster care youth was less than the birth rates for California 18-year-olds, while among 19-year-olds the birth rate was similar in both groups.
- Approximately 50 percent of females in the foster care system receive AFDC/TANF Medi-Cal within one to six years of emancipating from the foster care system. In comparison, approximately six percent of all females age 19-29 in California received TANF in 1999.
- Although the number of ECW youth who were matched against the CYA database was small (44 out of 10,228), 93% of these were male. Types of offenses that bring foster care youth into the CYA system are robbery, assault battery weapons, burglary/theft/forgery, sex offense, drug offense and other.
- Thirty-two percent Black, 18% White and 42% Hispanic EPR male youth enter the state prison system within seven years after emancipation. For ECW youth nine percent of Black males, five percent of White males and six percent of Hispanic males enter the state prison system within seven years after emancipation.

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